(e) The question of improving the road is engaging the attention of Government. A joint inspection of the road by the Superintendent of Agriculture and Panchayats and the Chief Engineer was made. A sum of Rs. 7,500 has been made in the budget of 1103 for improving the road. The annual maintenance of the road is also attended to as far as funds permit.

(f) Yes.

(g) See answer to sub-division (e).

(h) Every effort will be made, but Government cannot bind themselves by any time limit.

The Cheerakuzhi bridge.

61. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) who were the Government officers present during the opening of the Cheerakuli bridge in the Talappalli Taluk;

(b) what was the amount of T. A. drawn for that day by each of the officers who were present there;

(c) was there any other meeting on that day to be attended by the Chief Engineer as representative of the Government; if so, did he attend it, if not, why not?

Mr. V K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) It is not possible to give a complete list of the Government officers who attended the function.

No record has been kept, as it was not thought necessary.

(b) Vide answer to section (a).

(c) There was a meeting of the Port Conservancy Board on that day. It was not possible for the Chief Engineer to attend it ,as he had to personally supervise the arrangements at Cheerakuli.

The Port Conservancy Board meeting should not have ordinarily been held on the day in question. It could not, therefore, be foreseen when the date of the function was decided on.

Contract works under the P. W. D. and tenders.

62. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a list of contract works given by the Chief Engineer ignoring the lowest tender for the last two years, showing the reason for refusing the lowest tender and the amount of excess that the Government had to spend for each item on this account and the name of the person to whom the work was entrusted in each case?

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